

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5642
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UK MCAP MARR
SUBJECT: PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF NON-DISBANDMENT OF
UK ROYAL MARINE UNIT

1. MULLEY, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENSE, MADE PUBLIC
IN COMMONS ON 28 JUNE, IN ANSWER TO A WRITTEN QUESTION,
HMG'S DECISION TO REVERSE ITS EARLIER 1975 DEFENSE
REVIEW DECISION CONCERNING DISBANDMENT OF NO. 41 ROYAL
COMMANDO, ROYAL MARINES. IT WAS PLANNED THAT THIS UNIT
WOULD BE RUN DOWN FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL FROM MALTA OF
THE INDEPENDENT COMPANY OF THE COMMANDO. THE UNIT WILL
NOW BE RECONSTITUTED IN BRITAIN WITH ABOUT 500 MEN
STATIONED AT DEAL, KENT. IT WILL GROW TO FULL STRENGTH
WHEN THE 200 MEN NOW STATIONED IN MALTA RETURN TO UK
CIRCA APRIL 1979.

2. RETENTION OF THE UNIT GIVES UK AN EASY AND QUICK
WAY OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL TROOPS TO HELP RELIEVE THE
BURDEN OF ROTATING PERIODS OF SERVICE IN NORTHERN
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IRELAND--WHICH AT PRESENT FALL HEAVILY ON BAOR. THE
COMMANDO UNIT WILL BE USED IN AN INFANTRY ROLE IN
NORTHERN IRELAND. THE ESTIMATED COST IS ABOUT 5 MILLION
POUNDS A YEAR AND IS SMALL. WHILE RETENTION IMPROVES
UK'S FORCE READINESS CAPABILITY, IT REFLECTS ALSO
RECOGNITION BY THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE ARMY HAS BECOME
OVERSTRETCHED AND THAT SOME RELIEF FROM THE STRAINS OF

FREQUENT TOURS OF DUTY IN NORTHERN IRELAND IS REQUIRED.

BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
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